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and the fact pointed out that it has probably been the cause of the occupancy of the Arctic regions by the Eskimos — has determined the distribution of the race. It is peculiarly the property of the women, and “a woman without a lamp” is an expression which betokens, of all beings, the most wretched among the Eskimo. Owing to the soot thrown off, the lamp renders it impossible for the Eskimo to be at all cleanly in the igloos. The lamp fulfills several functions, one of the most important of which is to melt snow and ice for drinking-water. There are three kinds of lamps: house lamp, traveler’s lamp, and mortuary lamp. About a dozen types are described, from the East Greenland lamp to that from Siberia. In both the Labrador and the Mackenzie River type it would seem to us that the author has attempted to establish a “type” from too small a series. The Peabody Museum of Harvard University contains several large Labrador lamps from Hopedale, which have divided bridges, and thus differ somewhat from the two types accredited to that region. But the significance of the paper lies in its demonstration of the effect of a technic art upon a hunting race; it is a contribution to the final “Weltgeschichte.”

F. R.

**Chess and Playing Cards.**<sup>1</sup>—Though it has developed from a simple catalogue and purports to be but a preliminary work, this memoir of 263 pages, by Stewart Culin, contains a valuable store of information concerning games and divinatorial processes. In the words of the author, “The object of this collection is to illustrate the probable origin, significance, and development of the games of chess and playing cards.” “The basis of the divinatorial systems from which games have arisen is assumed to be the classification of all things according to the four directions. This method of classification is practically universal among primitive people both in Asia and America. In order to classify objects and events which did not in themselves reveal their proper assignment, resort was had to magic. Survivals of these magical processes constitute our present games. The identity of the games of Asia and America may be explained upon the ground of their common object, and the identity of the mythical concepts which underlie them. These concepts, as illustrated in games, appear to be well-nigh universal. In the classification of things according to the four quarters we find a numerical ratio was assumed to exist between the several categories. The dis-

<sup>1</sup> Culin, Stewart. *Chess and Playing Cards, Report of the U. S. National Museum* for 1896, pp. 665-942. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1898.

covery of this ratio was regarded as an all-important clue. The cubical dotted die represents one of the implements of magic employed for this purpose. The cubical die belongs, however, to a comparatively late period in the history of games and divination. The almost universal object for determining number, and thence, by counting, place or direction, is three or more wooden staves, usually flat on one side and rounded upon the other." The author offers no comments upon the games of Patolli, of Mexico, and Pachesi, of India, which are perhaps the best examples of resemblance in a somewhat complex game from widely separated regions. It will be remembered that Dr. E. B. Tylor, to whose paper he refers, considers the game of Patolli to have been derived from Asiatic sources. The work is illustrated with fifty plates and over two hundred figures in the text.

F. R.

**The Huichol Indians of Mexico.**<sup>1</sup>—Carl Lumholtz has given a preliminary sketch of the Huichol Indians of the state of Jalisco, Mexico, whom he visited in 1894. But brief mention is made of their physical characters. The average stature of 43 men measured was 1.65 meters. They are thievish, emotional, imaginative, excitable, avaricious, and yet not inhospitable when their confidence has been gained. They spend a great part of their time at feasts and ceremonies. The houses are of stones and mud, covered with thatched roofs. The drinks used and the manner of brewing and distilling them are described in some detail. The author considers the process of distillation to be the most primitive in use upon the continent.

F. R.

**Anthropological Notes.**—In the *Annual Report of the Director of the Field Columbian Museum* for the year ending Sept. 30, 1898, we note that the Department of Anthropology was one of the most active and successful in the museum during the year. The accession list contains a rather undue proportion of osteological specimens—rather a fortunate condition from our point of view.

In the January–February number of the *American Antiquarian* H. I. Smith gives an interesting list of the "Animal Forms in Peruvian Art." The animals represented range from man to mollusks, and are both painted and sculptured.

<sup>1</sup> *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, vol. x, article i, pp. 1–14. New York, 1898.